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## News Release

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### **Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference April 19 at Civic Center in Rapid City**

The 5th annual Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference will be held on Thursday, April 19, at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City. The conference, sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Dakota Engineering Society, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and West Dakota Water Development District, is open to the public and features topics dealing with water in western South Dakota.

Four technical sessions and a keynote luncheon speaker will allow hydrologists, geologists, engineers, students, and other interested individuals to meet and exchange ideas, discuss mutual problems, and present the results of studies. The annual conference typically draws over 200 attendees.

The technical sessions include presentations about drought, water availability, aquifer vulnerability, surface-water issues, ground-water issues, environmental impacts, and a variety of other water-related topics. The conference will kick off at 7:50 a.m. with South Dakota State Climatologist, Dennis Todey, presenting "Status of Drought in South Dakota." The keynote luncheon speaker will be Dr. P. Christopher Milly, who heads the [Continental Water, Climate, and Earth-System Dynamics Project](#) for the USGS in Princeton, N.J. Dr. Milly and his team study continental water as a central actor in the dynamics of the earth system and the implications of global climate changes on streamflow. His talk is titled, "Old State, New State; Red State, Blue State: Contrasting Implications of Climate Change for Streamflow across the United States." Additional details regarding the preliminary program are available from the conference Web site at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/WSDconf/>.

Professional registration fees are \$35 and professional development hours will be coordinated through the South Dakota Engineering Society for technical sessions attended. Students and the general public can attend the sessions for free. The cost of the luncheon is \$20. All attendees, including students and the general public, are asked to register before April 13 by visiting the above conference Web site or by contacting Janet Carter at 605-394-3215 or [jmcarter@usgs.gov](mailto:jmcarter@usgs.gov) for more information.

Additional information about the USGS water-resources studies in South Dakota can be obtained by visiting the USGS South Dakota Water Science Center home page at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/>.

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